%JS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

* () *** (**) (**)				nonnun i simo			
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS			
ANNETTE MACHADO				NCO FINANCIA			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant			
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email Add				NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE			
Craig Thor Kimmel, E				LAND	NVOLVED.		
Kimmel & Silverman,	P.C.			Attorneys (If Known)			
30 E. Butler Pike				, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
Ambler, PA 19002							
(215) 540-8888 II. BASIS OF JURISI	DICTION (Place an "X" is	n One Box Only)	III. CI	L TIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	S(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
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☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	☐ 365 Personal Injury -		of Property 21 USC 881	PROPERTY RIGHTS	☐ 450 Commerce	
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160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract	355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	Property Damage 385 Property Damage		Act 6 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	☐ 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	☐ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410	
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTI	ON			Do not cite jurisdictions	of statutes unless diversity):		
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VII. REQUESTED IN			y Di	MANDS CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Ø Yes ☐ No			
COMPLAINT:					JUNE DEMAND	, E1G 210	
VIII. RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER		
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Case 2:11-cv-02073-TON Document 1 Filed 03/28/11 Page 2 of 12

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be assignment to appropriate calendar.	used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of
Address of Plaintiff: 174 North Charolette, Potski	un PA 19464
Address of Defendant: 507 Prudentice Rind Harsh	am 1PA 19044
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:	
(Use Reverse Side For Ad	- ·
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation an	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	Yes□ NoD
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes □ No □
RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year	r-n. /
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior su	Yes No L.P it pending or within one year previously terminated
action in this court?	
	Ycs□ No□
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier many carrier many carrie	
terminated action in this court?	Yes No Q
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights	case filed by the same individual?
	Yes No O
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
A. Federal Questian Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts On The Advance of Market Contracts
2. □ FELA	2. C. Assertio Personal Injury
3. ☐ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. Assault, Defamation
4. © Antitrust	4. Marine Personal Injury
5. Patent	5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. ☐ Labor-Management Relations	6. Other Personal Injury (Please
	specify)
7. Civil Rights	7. Products Liability
8. Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability — Asbestos
9. ☐ Securities Act(s) Cases	 □ All other Diversity Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)
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(Please specify) ARBITRATION CERTI	ELCATION
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1, raig / mmel counsel of record do hereby certify	
Pursuant of Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and b \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;	elief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of
Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	
Louis Thoust - an na Ol	57140
DATE:	Attorney I.D.#
NOTE: A trial do novo will be a trial by jury only if there	-
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or we except as noted above.	othin one year previously terminated action in this court
	a 7 ,
DATE: Crury MWKIMMe!	<u> </u>
CIV. 609 (6/08)	Attorney I.D.#

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Annette Macha	අල	CIVIL ACTION							
NCO Financials	Systems.Inc	: :	NO.						
In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.									
SELECT ONE OF THE F	OLLOWING CAS	E MANAGEM	IENT TRACKS:						
(a) Habcas Corpus - Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255.									
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.									
(c) Arbitration - Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.									
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.									
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)									
(f) Standard Management - Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.									
Date 215-540-8888	Sary Thuces Attorney-at-188	Kmmel D&y	Annette Mach Attorney for LimmePockedit	law.com					
Telephone	FAX Numbe	r	E-Mail Address						

(Civ. 660) 10/02

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 ANNETTE MACHADO, 4 5 Plaintiff 6 v. Case No.: 7 NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC., COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 8 Defendant (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 9 10 **COMPLAINT** 11 ANNETTE MACHADO ("Plaintiff"), by her attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, 12 P.C., files this complaint against NCO FINANCIAL SYSTEMS, INC. ("Defendant"), and 13 alleges the following: 14 15 INTRODUCTION 16 1. Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 17 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, 18 19 deceptive, and unfair practices, and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et 20 seq. ("TCPA"). 21 22 23 24 25 1

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States.
- Defendant conducts business and has an office in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and therefore, personal jurisdiction is established.
 - 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).
 - 5. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464.
- 7. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- 8. Defendant is a national debt collection company with its corporate headquarters located at 507 Prudential Road in Horsham, Pennsylvania, 19044.
- Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6),
 and repeatedly contacted Plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

11. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties.

See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.

- 12. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 13. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress

additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.

14. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. At all relevant times, Defendant was attempting to collect an alleged consumer debt from Plaintiff.
- 16. The alleged debt at issue arose out of transactions, which were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 17. Beginning in or around May 2010 and continuing through February 2011, Defendant, its agents, employees, and servants, repeatedly and continuously contacted Plaintiff on her cellular telephone in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 18. On numerous occasions, Defendant contacted Plaintiff on her cellular phone using automated telephone equipment.
- 19. Defendant left voice mail messages on Plaintiff's voice mail, indicating that the call is being made in attempt to collect a debt.
- 20. Defendant placed repeated calls to Plaintiff's cellular phone almost every day, causing Plaintiff to receive, at times, more than five (5) collection calls a day.
 - 21. Plaintiff tried contacting Defendant, but only reached an automated recording,

 which informed Plaintiff to wait for the next available representative and then the telephone call would be disconnected.

- 22. Further, when contacting Plaintiff on her cellular telephone, upon information and belief, Defendant used an automatic telephone dialing system or pre-recorded or artificial voice.
- 23. Plaintiff did not expressly consent to Defendant's placement of telephone calls to her cellular telephone by the use of an automatic telephone dialing system or a pre-recorded or artificial voice prior to Defendant's placement of the calls.
- 24. None of Defendant's telephone calls placed to Plaintiff were for "emergency purposes," as specified in 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1)(A).
- 25. Within five days of her initial communication with Defendant in May 2010, Plaintiff did not receive a letter notifying her of her rights to dispute the debt and/or seek validation of the debt.
- 26. Further, Defendant failed to provide any documentation detailing the purchases, payments, interest and late charges, if any, thereby making it impossible for Plaintiff to determine whether this was a valid debt and whether or not she owes the alleged debt.
- 27. Upon information and belief, Defendant sought to collect a debt from Plaintiff, despite lacking knowledge of its validity.
- 28. Defendant's actions in attempting to collect the alleged debt were harassing, and highly deceptive.

CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

29. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. <u>Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand</u>, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer

need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." Russell v. Equifax A.R.S., 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp., 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); Clomon v. Jackson, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).

- 30. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services, Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).
- 31. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3rd Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

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COUNT I DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 32. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all facts and allegations specified in all preceding paragraphs, by reference as if fully set forth at length.
- 33. In its actions to collect a disputed debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
 - Defendant violated of the FDCPA generally;
 - Defendant violated §1692d of the FDCPA by harassing Plaintiff in connection with the collection of an alleged debt;
 - c. Defendant violated §1692d(5) of the FDCPA, when it caused the Plaintiff's telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously with the intent to harass, annoy or abuse Plaintiff;
 - Defendant violated §1692e of the FDCPA by using false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of a debt;
 - e. Defendant violated §1692f of the FDCPA by using unfair and unconscionable means with Plaintiff to collect or attempt to collect a debt;
 - f. Defendant violated §1692g of the FDCPA by failing to send written notification, within five (5) days after its initial communication with Plaintiff, advising Plaintiff of her rights to dispute the debt or request verification of the debt; smf
 - g. Defendant acted in an otherwise deceptive, unfair and unconscionable manner and failed to comply with the FDCPA.

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COUNT II DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

- 34. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all facts and allegations specified in all preceding paragraphs, by reference as if fully set forth at length.
- 35. The Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. §227 et seq., prohibits the use of an automatic telephone dialing system or a pre-recorded or artificial voice to place telephone calls to an individual on his or her cellular telephone. See 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(1)(A)(iii).
- 36. A person may bring a private cause of action "based on a violation of this subsection or the regulations prescribed under this subsection to enjoin such violation." See 47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(A).
- 37. Also, a person is entitled to bring "an action to recover for actual monetary loss from such a violation, or to receive \$500 in damages for each such violation, whichever is greater." See 47 U.S.C. §227(c)(5)(B).
- 38. The Court, in its discretion, is authorized to award up to three (3) times the actual damages sustained by a person for violations of the TCPA. See 47 U.S.C. §227(c)(5).
- 39. Defendant repeatedly and regularly placed non-emergency, automated calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone, leaving several messages using a pre-recorded or artificial voice.
- 40. Defendant did not have Plaintiff's express consent prior to contacting her on her cellular telephone using an automatic telephone dialing system or pre-recorded or artificial voice.
- 41. Defendant's conduct violated §227(b)(1)(A)(iii) of the TCPA by making any call using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial prerecorded voice to a telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service.

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C.

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